efficiency will not suffer more than it does now. Indeed, we do not say that we are providing rules for recruitment for the selection of the very best. That does not mean that there is no consideration for efficiency. For the sake of harmony, a workable minimum of efficiency shall be fixed.

I do not wish to say anything regarding the bantering speech of my honourable friend Mr. Balakrishnan Tampi. It is very easy, nay even tempting, to venture in that direction. You cannot make a very attractive speech in support of communal representation. But it is very easy to make a speech full of humour and sarcasm if you stand for the ideal of efficiency. My friend is in a happy position to continue in that direction; but he himself has realised that he is an "ineffective angel, beating his luminous wings in the void" when he was attempting to oppose the motion. All the same, Sir, I thank him for giving his general support to the motion.

With these words, I commend the motions for the acceptance of the House.

The motions were put to vote and carried.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS.

DISCUSSION OF THE REPORT OF THE DEBT RELIEF ENQUIRY COMMITTEE.

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: I rise to introduce the Report of the Debt Relief Enquiry Committee. In doing so, I may be permitted to put it to the House whether they would now think it worth while to discuss in detail the recommendations of the Committee, in the light of the assurance already given by Government.....

President: I might inform the honourable members of this House that, after careful consideration of this matter, having regard to the general feeling on this matter which has made itself felt and which has been expressed publicly, Government have decided to summon a Joint Session of the two Houses, during the first week of March, for the purpose of considering this matter.

Mr. Puthupally S. Krishna Pillai: In view of that announcement, I do not wish to add anything. It is entirely left to the House whether they would discuss the Report now or not.

Mr. Kochikal P. Balakrishnan Tampi: May I know from the Legal Remembrancer, whether, under the present constitution, it is permissible to call together a Joint Session except for the Dewan-President to address?

President: The matter has been looked into. In the Assembly and Council Rules, provision has been made for Joint Committees composed of an equal number of representatives chosen from both the Houses. But, there is provision under Parliamentary

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[President]

procedure, even in respect of Houses so disparate as the House of Lords and the House of Commons, for joint meetings of both the Houses ; that is within parliamentary practice, although, on account of the unwieldiness of the Houses of Parliament, on account of the architectural deficiency of the Westminster Hall, such a joint meeting has not often happened.

Apart from the architectural deficiency in London there is authority for a Joint Session of the two Houses being held. I would invite the attention of the honourable members to pages 603 and 604 of Erskine May's "Parliamentary Practice." It is stated there——

> "Such addresses are presented either by both Houses in a body, or by two peers and four members of the House of Commons ; and they have been presented also by committees of both Houses ; by a joint committee of Lords and Commons..... ..
>
> The subjects upon which addresses are presented are too varied to admit of enumeration. They have comprised every matter of foreign or domestic policy ; the administration of justice, the confidence of Parliament in the ministers of the Crown.....In short, representations upon all points connected with the government and welfare of the country ;.....

The only exception is.....

> ".....they ought not to be presented in relation to any bill depending in either House of Parliament."

In other words, if a bill has already been introduced in a House it is considered a trespass upon its jurisdiction to have a joint address ; subject to that, a joint meeting is possible.

And, there are many conveniences attending upon a joint meeting. I trust honourable members will have no objection to make history ; because, we are going to have it for the first time in India.

Mr. Kottur Kunjukrishna Pillai : We are not anxious to discuss the details of the Report now ; we only want the matter to be disposed of expeditiously.

President : It is for that, that we are thinking of a joint session.

I take it that the House agrees to that course,

REPORT OF THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE.

Mr. M. Govinda Pillai : I beg to move that the Report of the Public Accounts Committee on the Audit and Appropriation Accounts of 1113, may be taken up for consideration.

As no motion had been given notice of, the President called upon Mr. Ananthasiva Aiyar to move his motion for adjournment of the House.

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